

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 15, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCPHERSON, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1070.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1070) granting a pension to Jacob H. Eppler, respectfully report as follows:*

That Jacob H. Eppler (late of Company B, Eleventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers) entered the United States Army on the 17th day of August, 1861, as private, Company B, Eleventh Indiana Infantry, Col. Lewis Wallace commanding; and that he re-enlisted in said company and regiment, as a veteran, in February, 1864; and that in September, 1864, at the second battle of Winchester, he was wounded in the leg, and contracted serious and fatal cold in the eyes while lying exposed on the battle-field, subsequently becoming blind, and when discharged from the hospital was totally and permanently blind.

The report of the Surgeon-General and the examiners, and reports of the Surgeon General and the examinations and reports of the examining surgeons, show that Eppler became totally blind before he was discharged from the hospital; that the blindness was caused by ophthalmia, and that the said Eppler was in sound health before his gunshot wound.

Col. Daniel Macauley, of the Eleventh Indiana Regiment, and Capt. John Macauley, both testify as to the wounding of Eppler on the battle-field. Colonel Macauley swears that said Eppler, while with his company, was a good and efficient soldier, and did not, so far as he knew, have any physical disease either of eye or body, and was a sound and healthy man up to the time of receiving said wound.

Capt. John Macauley testifies to the sending of Eppler from the battle-field to the hospital, and of Eppler's subsequent and final discharge from the service.

Dr. David Funkhauser, the family physician, testifies to the sound physical condition of Eppler when he entered the service, as do also the examining surgeons.

Examining Surgeon James L. Reat makes four reports from 1870 to 1879, and in substance deposes that Eppler is totally blind; that the history and diagnosis of the case show that some time prior to September, 1864, Eppler doubtless had slight ophthalmia of both eyes, but that the wound in the leg and his exposure on the battle-field, when he lay exposed during the night, getting wet from rain, chilled by the

night air, and weakened by loss of blood, brought on the aggravated disease of the eyes, and resulted in total blindness; and he rated his disability as "Total. First grade."

Eppler is totally unable to gain a livelihood, and is supported by relatives and friends.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill (S. 1070).